

---

JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

---

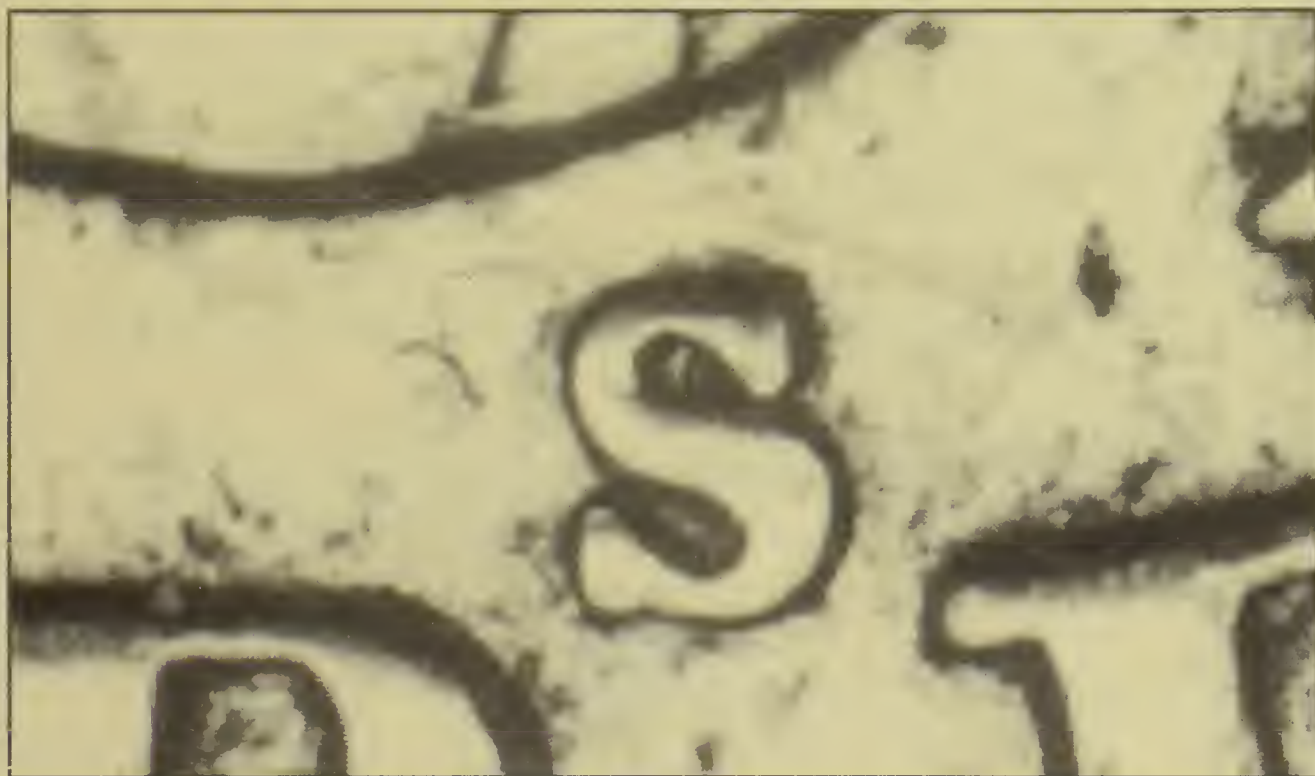
Volume 14

Number 2



2003

## 1907-S Quarter RPM



**Lawrence 103: 1807-S/S/S RPM**

**See page 15**

*Cover photo reprinted from Dave Lawrence's The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition, page 85, courtesy of John Feigenbaum.*



# Specializing in Barbers & Quality U.S. Coins

Since 1979 David and his son John have specialized in Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars - publishing 4 books on the series. Over the years, David Lawrence Rare Coins has helped hundreds of clients assemble a wide range of Barber collections. From circulated to mint state, as well as proof issues, we can help you build a wonderful Barber collection. As aggressive "market makers" in Barber coinage, our prices and quality are tough to beat and our service second to none. Whether it's Barbers or any series of U.S. coinage, we will help you build a collection to be proud of.

## Always Buying!

- ✓ We pay top dollar for Barber collections in ALL grades. Complete or partial sets also needed.
- ✓ We buy all U.S. coinage from half cents to gold. We also buy currency!
- ✓ Our large national clientele allows us to pay strong for your raw or certified coins.

## DLRC Service

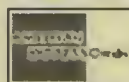
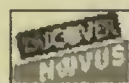
- ✓ Knowledgeable numismatists to help with any of your collecting needs.
- ✓ Computerized want-listing to match you with your needed coins.
- ✓ State-of-the-art website with daily inventory updates and 100% of images, as well as easy on-line ordering.



David Lawrence  
r a r e c o i n s

**1-800-776-0560**

P. O. Box 1061  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
e-mail: [info@davidlawrence.com](mailto:info@davidlawrence.com)



**[www.davidlawrence.com](http://www.davidlawrence.com)**



---

JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

---

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein

### OFFICERS

Philip Carrigan.....	<i>President</i>
Paul Reuter.....	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Eileen Ribar.....	<i>Editor, BCCS Journal</i>
Steve Szczerbiak.....	<i>Variety Coordinator</i>
Lindsay Ashburn.....	<i>Contributing Editor</i>
Steve Hustad.....	<i>Contributing Editor</i>

---

### ADDRESSES

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed, information for Barber Bits, Letters to the Editor, advertisements, layouts, etc.: Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; E-mail: emcrib@optonline.net

For variety information, questions and comments: Steve Szczerbiak, P. O. Box 244, Olympia Fields, IL 60461; E-mail: sscerbiak@aol.com

For membership dues (\$15.00 per year; Canadian residents \$20.00), information about the BCCS and back issues of the BCCS Journal (\$3.00 each): Paul Reuter, 415 Ellen Dr., Brookhaven, MS 39601; E-mail: pauloreuter@telepak.net

For BCCS issues in general: Philip Carrigan, 1944 Ash St., Waukegan, IL 60087; Tel. 847-937-5129 day; 847-625-0381 evening; Fax: 847-938-2510; E-mail: philip.carrigan@abbott.com

---

### CONTENTS

---

Page 4.....BCCS President's Message

Page 5.....Letter from the Editor

Page 6....."Building a Mint State Set of Barber Half Dollars, Part 1" by Peter K. Shireman, MD

Page 10....Barber Bits from Paul Reuter, John Frost, Glenn Church, Kevin Flynn, and James Ryder

Page 12...."Under the Glass" by Brian Cornwell

Page 14...."Illustrating Varieties" by Steve Hustad

Page 20...."Diary of a Barber Coin Dealer" Anonymous



## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this with the ANA Baltimore Convention just one month away. I won't say more of this, as the Journal will reach our members after this event. I believe the coin market is healthy based on my experience this past weekend. The Mid-American Show was held in Chicago and dealers I spoke to were very happy. Chris Napolitano of Summit Rare Coins indicated specifically Barbers were picking up from a period of some softness, particularly in the middle uncirculated grades.

At the end of May, my wife Mary Clare and I went to St. Louis to see two friends and for me to attend the Central States (CSNS) Show. One of these friends, Jim, had collected coins in the past and was interested in this show. The two days we spent at the show were a great experience for Jim and a stimulus for his return to numismatics. A large show such as this (i.e., 300+ dealers) can be overpowering, but provides an opportunity to see coins and meet dealers representing virtually all areas of numismatics.

While I was at the show, I saw a wonderful Barber coin at a well-known dealer's table but I didn't recognize the person behind the table. He showed me the coin (which I ultimately purchased) but, just as important, we determined we had common interests in Barbers. Peter Shireman is a highly dedicated and knowledgeable collector and is building a fantastic high grade set of Barber Half Dollars. I encouraged Peter to write about his collecting experiences and you will find his first article in this issue. Based on several Email exchanges we've had, Peter has additional articles in mind, which will introduce our members to registry set building, buying at auction and other neat topics.

My meeting Peter and learning of his specific Barber interests is a repeat of similar meetings with other Barber collectors. While each has a passion for this series and the focus they have developed whether building an EF quarter set, finding varieties and more, everyone doesn't collect in the same manner. Sharing your interest with fellow members gives you a chance to see your name in print and stimulate other collectors with your ideas and experience.

I'll have a 'Barber Report' based on ANA in the next issue.

Numismatic regards,  
Phil Carrigan



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Two of the articles featured in this issue touch on the topic of coin grading. Brian Cornwell, author of "Test of 1,000 Exposes Grading Reality" asserts that if you were to grade 1,000 coins, set them aside for a lengthy time period, and then regrade them, you will have changed the grades on many of them. The author of "Diary of a Barber Coin Dealer" states that "there are generally accepted grading standards for Barbers,..." yet he mentions that some dealers "have their own grading standards..."

While I was setting both articles aside for inclusion in this issue, the May 26, 2003 issue of *Coin World* carried an article comparing grading services. 15 coins of various denominations and dates were submitted in turn to 8 grading services. The result? There was not one coin's grade on which all eight services agreed. Some were very close in agreement. One or two were out of the ballpark.

Why such discrepancies? After all, there are set guidelines. You would think that sending a coin to several services would get the same result. Yet, grading coins remains very subjective, especially when it comes to MS grades. Some people are more conservative while others are more liberal. There isn't any answer to the problem. My only advice is to know who you're dealing with. Become familiar with grading services and/or dealers - eventually they establish their own reputations - and deal with those with whom you feel most comfortable.

continued on page 13

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Sept. 22nd**



---

# Building a Mint State Set of Barber Half Dollars, Part 1

By **Peter K. Shireman, MD**

I plan to write several articles relating to my experience of putting together a complete mint state set of Barber halves. This first article will be a general overview, and others will focus on individual coins and anecdotes of interest.

## Beginning and Background

Sometime in 1994 I found myself facing the age-old question we all face in coin collecting: What do I start collecting now? How I got started collecting in the first place provides important background information. Growing up in the 1960's, I was just on the tail end of pulling silver coins and wheat cents from circulation. At age 10 it was 1968 and moderate numbers of coins could still be found. My interest in collecting was never to vanish after that first experience. I recall seeing very few Barber coins as a youth and only in coin shops. Seems like they were always well worn and detail was not sharp. Once in a great while I would see an AU coin that the detail just leaped off of the coin and that is when I first gained my appreciation for high-grade Barbers. Such coins always seemed to sell fast even though they would often be priced around \$100 or so for a half dollar. Being a youth, I was in no position to own more than one of these coins at a time and concentrated instead on the usual series and rolls such as Lincoln cent sets and rolls, Buffalo nickels, proof sets, uncirculated Morgan dollar rolls, and Franklin halves. I had no great focus or any great sets put together back then.

As is often the case, my years spent in college meant that my collecting interests went on hold. It wasn't until I had finished medical school and residency that I finally had some disposable income to make coin collecting active for me. In addition, my job allowed me enough money for coins so I could buy better stuff. After dabbling in a few high-grade type coins, I bought my first truly nice barber half dollar, an 1892 in PCGS 64 with moderate and beautiful original toning; I still have the coin. My original intent was to own just the 1892 example as a type coin.

Now we return to the 1994 question of what to collect. I was looking

---

through a *Coin World* Trends section and looked at the prices of Barber halves in various grades. It looked like a complete set could be put together in MS 63 for about \$70,000. That seemed reachable if it was stretched out over 8-10 years. All I had to do was start buying the coins in MS 63. The limiting factor would surely be money rather than availability of coins. How wrong that assumption turned out to be. It would take a lot of time to locate all the coins and a lot more money than I ever anticipated. Smile if you will while reading this, but that was my thinking at the time.

### Starting the Set

My set was begun with the 1892 and a raw 1909-S half that I had in an old Capital plastic type set. The 09-S was sent to PCGS through David Feigenbaum Lawrence and came back certified as an MS 64, a beautiful proof-like coin still in my set. My goal was to collect white or lightly toned coins in MS 63 or 64 with coins certified by PCGS or NGC. Most of my first purchases came from Heritage and David Lawrence Rare Coins and were white or lightly toned. The majority of the first coins put into the set were common dates that were priced from \$600 to \$1000 in the grades of MS 63 and 64. Reading as much as possible meant that I purchased David Lawrence's texts on halves and later on certified Barber coinage. *Coin World* was eagerly anticipated each week and coins sought out. Several auctions of great Barber halves came along including the James Bennet Pryor sale in 1996, the Eliasberg sale in 1997 and the Thane Price sale in 1999. Auctions were a venue I wouldn't pursue until 2000. Most of the coins in those key auction sales were too high-grade for my tastes at the time and thus were too expensive. Many were also raw and required a trained eye and intestinal fortitude to purchase. I preferred to take my chances on purchasing coins after the coins had been certified and were offered by dealers with return privileges. However, the key auction catalogs serve as tremendous resources of information on Barber halves. Joining the Barber Collector's Society and obtaining all back issues of the journal were additional ways of supplementing my Barber library.

Over time my set grew and there were critical junctures when I had to "reach" for coins that were more expensive than I had anticipated when starting to build the set. The first was the 1901-S in PCGS 62 I bought from David Lawrence. It cost me \$2750 and I bought it on two installments. It remained in my set for a long time and I was thankful I bought the coin as very few 1901-S's have ever been offered for sale since then. The next major jump came with the 1907-S in PCGS 64, again from David Lawrence. It cost me \$5750 and remains in my set; it has beautiful original toning. Other major jumps would come later.

In August 1998 I decided to have my set evaluated by Larry Whitlow to see



---

if any of my 50 or so halves might be candidates for upgrades or replacement. At that time I had no single dealer that I used exclusively and wanted to make sure I was on the right track. I had been essentially working a vacuum. Larry gladly looked over my coins and suggested trying to get all the NGC graded coins into PCGS holders through the PCGS crossover service. He helped me submit 20 NGC coins and twelve of them crossed. A sixty percent crossover rate is unheard of now, and was unusual even then. Larry also suggested that the 1909 in NGC 64 be cracked out and submitted raw to PCGS. It came back as a PCGS 65, my first MS 65 coin in the set! I had now broken through the MS 65 barrier, never to look back. The influence of Larry was strong and since that time I have mostly bought PCGS coins.

It was in April 1999 at the Central States show in Milwaukee that I made the biggest and most expensive step for my collection. Although I had picked up a 1904-S in PCGS 62 along the way, I was always looking for an MS 63 or 64 example of this key date. John at David Lawrence had a 1904-S in NGC MS 66 that I was bound and determined to evaluate and possibly purchase, but the price of \$47,500 was a huge reach for me. I came to the show with extensive material for trade, and after seeing the coin and falling in love with it, I reached a deal that included trading in my 1904-S in 62, an 1892 micro-O in PCGS AU50, and a PCGS MS 62 1907 high relief \$20 gold piece, as well as other coins and cash. I've never regretted purchasing that coin which served to elevate my collection to a new level and set my sights on pursuing the set at the MS 64 to 66 grades. The 1904-S crossed to PCGS MS 66 and is a story I plan to relate in another article. This coin was the start of pursuing high-grade examples of the keys from pedigreed collections such as Norweb, Eliasberg, Pryor, and others. I would begin the upgrade phase of my set building by focusing on the keys in the set first. Others I would update as funds and availability permitted. Funds always seem to run out before available coins for some reason.

The next stage of my journey involved completing the set in mint state, switching entirely to PCGS coins, and finding additional avenues to purchase coins. The switch to exclusively PCGS coins initially reflected my personal observations of the marketplace and influence by certain dealers. Fortuitously, it would set me up for the PCGS Set Registry perfectly so that when it became available I decided to list my set. That gave me the opportunity to watch it grow from 90% complete to complete over two to three years. Additional avenues to purchase coins included eBay, the web sites of dealers, and auctions. The massive switch to the internet by the coin collecting community has made it possible to quickly look at many dealers' inventories, auction listings, and eBay listings to see what is available at any given time. The ability to see images gives one a quick look at a coin to see if it has possibilities. My favorite web sites for Barber halves include: Harry Laibstain Rare Coins ([hlrc.com](http://hlrc.com)), David Lawrence Rare Coins ([davidlawrence.com](http://davidlawrence.com)), Heri-



---

tage Coins ([heritagecoin.com](http://heritagecoin.com)), Larry Whitlow ([whitlowltd.com](http://whitlowltd.com)), [ebay.com](http://ebay.com), and Legend Coin ([legendcoin.com](http://legendcoin.com)). In 2000 I forged a strong relationship with Harry Laibstain and have done most of my business with him since. If you check Harry's website you will often find many Barber halves for sale. Some of these are coins from my set that have been upgraded.

### What Next?

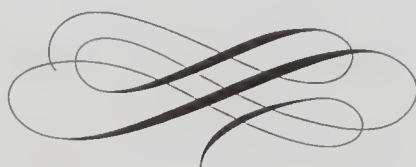
My set became complete in 2002 (nearly a ten year journey) with the last coin needed, a 1911-S. I had another decision to make. What do I use as my ultimate goal and endpoint? Although it may be a moving target, my current goal is to upgrade my remaining MS 63 coins to MS 65 or 66 as such coins become available. My current average is 64.72 and my set is listed on the PCGS web site as third finest known behind Dr. Steven Duckor (current set) and Dr. Thaine Price (historic set). That this series has attracted so many physicians is interesting, but part of the reason is the tremendous cost of the high-end coins. They are truly rare and are under-priced for the rarity.

There are some interesting psychological aspects to the registries offered by PCGS and NGC. Despite my set being listed as the second current finest set and third finest set of all time, I personally know of three other complete mint state sets that are better overall than mine, but all include a combination of NGC and PCGS coins. Not all set builders have decided to list their coins on registries nor do all choose to limit themselves to one grading service's coins. The registries have also opened up communication between the collectors that never existed before. I have personally seen the entire set of Dr. Duckor, the #1 PCGS Registry Set, and it is absolutely magnificent. Another contact made is with a collector who has an average grade of 65.6 with a combination of PCGS and NGC coins. The three of us have shared a lot of information and have even traded and sold coins to each other. We all communicate on a regular basis by email. Dr. Duckor and I have been in discussion with PCGS with a possible "showdown" of our sets at a Long Beach Show or other major numismatic venue.

A very interesting phenomenon with high-grade Barber half dollars is that the population reports kept by PCGS and NGC are exceedingly accurate for most of these coins because most are bought and held, and are held by a handful of individuals; all of us are compulsive and want accurate population figures and have been true to returning certification tags on any coins upgraded, crossed-over, or cracked out. I have verified the population reports' accuracy with a number of coins, and can through my contacts account for a high percentage of the highest graded key coins in the set including 1904-S, 1896-O, 1901-S, 1893-S, 1900-O, etc. It would be relatively easy to compile a condition census for these rarest dates.

---

At some point my set will be completely imaged and I plan to post them on the PCGS registry web site. With 74 coins in the variety set, it will take a lot of time and effort to get the entire set digitized. I have found that a scanner works reasonably well for this purpose. It has turned out to be a great challenge to build this set, much greater than I imagined when looking at *Coin World Trends* thinking all I had to do was start buying the coins and build it without much trouble. The challenge is in the hunt and it has been, and continues to be a great one!



## **BARBER BITS**

A Real Barber Bit: I suppose it had to happen eventually. We now have a Barber in the Barber Coin Collectors' Society. We welcome **Truman Barber** of Rockwell, Texas as our newest member.

Paul Reuter

**John Frost** has contacted Paul Reuter to say he was happy to have won the 2002 BCCS literary contest, he hoped people liked what he wrote, and that he is donating the \$50.00 back to the Society. Many thanks to John for his generosity.

Here is an excerpt from second place winner **Glenn Church**'s letter to the editor:

“What a pleasant surprise to discover that I had won 2nd place in the BCCS 2002 Literary Contest. The article was a ‘labor of love’ as the coin I sold deserved to be protected for the benefit of the collector/buyer, and it was a rendition of fact and history that not all deserving coins receive.

Thank you for your kind letter. Please tell all who participated in the selection that I appreciate the reward.

I have three more articles that are as yet incomplete, but I now have the stimulus to complete them.”

**Kevin Flynn** announces that his new book, *The Authoritative Reference on*



---

*Barber Dimes, Quarters and Half Dollars* will be completed by November. Kevin states: "I will be researching at the National Archives this summer to see what other information I can find regarding Charles Barber and these series. If there are subjects which you believe should be included in this book, please e-mail me at kevinj50@comcast.net or write me at Kevin Flynn, P.O. Box 538, Rancocas, NJ 08073."

Kevin's other book titled *Over Mintmarks and Hot Repunched Mintmarks* is now available. Several dramatic Barber RPMs are included. Contact Brooklyn Gallery, 8725 4th Ave., Brooklyn NY 11209 or visit their website [www.brooklyngallery.com](http://www.brooklyngallery.com) for complete ordering information.

Dear Editor:

Concerning Lindsay Ashburn's article on the 1895-S RPD dime in the last Journal, I have a small quibble with some phrasing. This is a nice, bold RPD and a great discovery, by the way.

In the first sentence, however, the statement "repunching of the 9 to the south" is made. Then in the next paragraph "...repunching appears directly South,..." If you think about it, the partial or misplaced 9 (south) is the original punch and the correctly placed 9 to the north is the re-punched number, not the other way around. Put another way - first a 9 was punched by hand into the die. That is the piece of 9 we see under the full 9. Then the 9 we see as complete was re-punched on top of the first 9.

I point this out fully realizing I take the chance of being classified as a nit-picking crank. Old English majors are all alike, I fear, insisting on precision in language and descriptions. If I am wrong in this observation, someone please correct me.

Incidentally, it could be a trick of shadowing or something else, but the photo seems to show a repunched 8 as well - repunched to the west by my system of reckoning.

Sincerely,  
James Ryder



---

# Under the Glass

## Test of 1,000 Exposes Grading Reality

By **Brian Cornwell**

*(Reprinted from Canadian Coin News, May 6, 2003 with permission of author)*

What follows concerns coin grading. More specifically, the focus is on what I call the “Test of 1,000.”

It works something like this. You are given 1,000 Canadian coins to grade. These coins encompass a very broad mixture of denominations, metal types (i.e. gold, silver, nickel, etc.), monarch types from Victoria through Elizabeth II, and finally, those that are both circulated and uncirculated where all grades are represented, from Good (4) to MS-67 or so. You examine each coin and record its grade.

Sometime later (say a year or so) a third party randomizes the coin sequence first used and you grade the coins once again. The idea behind both the large number of coins to grade, the shuffling of the coin order and the long period between grading each group is to make sure you don’t simply “grade” them the second time by remembering how you did it the first time.

After the regrade exercise is complete, you then compare the results to see how many of the 1,000 coins received exactly the same grade. Before you actually figure out the results, take a guess as to how you think you did. At the same time, how do you think a grading professional would do? Except for professionals, most in the hobby will be surprised at the results.

First of all, except by a fluke, no one will score 100 per cent, that is, get a perfect match-up of 1,000 original grades and 1,000 repeat grades. This applies to professional graders as well. If a fluke match-up occurred, then repeat the test with a different group of coins to prove the point.

Second, what’s the point of all this? It’s simply this. Regardless of whatever grading standard you are using, your ability to grade a given coin at random exactly the same at some future time is not a certainty. It could happen, but it’s not guaranteed, no matter how attentive and careful you might be. There are a few



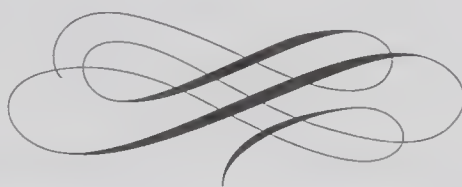
---

reasons for this. One is that sometimes when grading, we can get sloppy like being in too much of a hurry to get the job done. Another concerns how we look at the coin. If you've had any grading experience, you have probably come across a situation where you've looked at a coin you previously graded and noticed something you didn't see the first time. This is very true for uncirculated coins where some of the surface damage may consist of a few fine hairline marks that are hard to see unless the lighting is exactly right. Seeing or not seeing that hairline could be the difference in the grade assigned. But the biggest culprit that stops you or any professional from scoring 100 per cent has to do with the "borderline" grades.

For example, you look at a certain coin one day and conclude it is a very strong MS-63. By this I mean it easily meets all the criteria you have set out to be called MS-63, but isn't good enough to label MS-64. That same coin on another day might appear to you to be such a fraction short of MS-64 that you decide that it should be called MS-64. You didn't detect any new marks on the coin, it's just a matter how you put all of the observed data together to call a final grade. If there were no borderline grade coins in that batch of 1,000 coins, then it's possible an experienced grader who is being very careful could have 100 per cent repeatability in his or her grading activities. But throw in borderline grades to the mixture and not even professionals are certain of getting 100 per cent.

So, when you go about grading coins and discover that your grading repeatability isn't perfect, don't be alarmed. This is reality. In fact, if you do the test properly, you may find your repeatability is only around 50 per cent or so. Again, don't be alarmed. Grading professionals would probably score in the 80 to 90 per cent range.

Again, this is the reality of coin grading.



## Letter from the Editor

continued from page 5

After reading these two articles, if you have any comments or opinions that you would like to express regarding either one or the topic of coin grading in general, please feel free to contact me.

---

# Illustrating Varieties

By Steve Hustad

Summer is just around the corner and we're now getting to the end of the quarter varieties that I have to show. Three here and three more in the next segment and the quarter series is wrapped up.

In many cases, we've been able to delineate differences in "common knowledge," and/or contradict previously published information that may have shaken things up a bit. Of course, many varieties remain 'as is,' but some new diagnostic die features have come to light in the time since some of those books were published that need to be illustrated. I hope those are also helpful - especially when you're hunched over some dealer's table at a coin show, peering through your 10x loop in bad light and asking yourself: "Is that really a second repunched 7 that I see under all that gunk?" Maybe in those cases, knowledge of a couple of unique die cracks can save the day.

This 8th installment of "Illustrating Varieties" deals with two 1907-S varieties, and one 1909-S piece. For the next issue we'll look at a 1914 Philly piece and a pair of the many 1916-D/D coins. And now, on to to the 1907-S pieces:

8th installment: Two 1907 San Francisco Mint Quarters, and a 1909 San Francisco piece - a mix of RPDs & RPMS

1907/07-S/S, RPD - South & RPM Overlap/Tilt (1 plate, 1/2 obverse & 1/2 reverse; plate coin is EF-40)

I believe this RPD is the same as that included in Dave Lawrence's *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition*, on page 84 & 85, labeled as "Lawrence 101," but with a couple of important distinctions. Dave doesn't mention that his piece also has the RPM reverse which looks to me exactly like "Lawrence 104!"

I believe the plate coin here utilized both the obverse die from #101 and the reverse die from #104, simply because the similarities are just too exacting to be



---

from different dies. Perhaps a mistake or mix-up was made with the piece when Dave was preparing his book and it was mistakenly listed as two separate varieties? Or possibly by chance - through die damage and wear to these dies' original "mates" - they were paired for a later production run together? If it's the second scenario, then we have *three* varieties instead of the two!

Does anyone have a #101 or #104 with only the one side as a die variety? If so, I'd like to hear about it. I think other members would too.

The obverse diagnostic is a light, thin die crack evident from the tip of Liberty's bust to the 13th star, and continuing out the opposite side of star 13, but not quite to the 12th star, or the rim.

The reverse shows no such wear. The repunched 'S' may actually be a 'Large S over Small S,' but I can't say for sure. (And no, it is nothing like Lawrence #105 which is identified as a 'Large over Small S.')

**1907-S/S, RPM - East (1 plate; 1/2 obverse & 1/2 reverse; plate coin is EF-40+)**

Dave's Quarter book notes this variety as "Lawrence 103," but notes it as a triple punched 'S,' and it undoubtedly could be, but to me it looks as if it may just be the opposite edge of the first polished down 'S,' instead of the edge of an additional re-punching. Also, that 'tripling' is only evident in the upper loop of the 'S' - the same as I'm illustrating here. The denticles and numerals, etc., all line up the same, so I'm certain they're from the same dies.

The coin plated here also has obverse diagnostics - one being a single die crack from the upper right corner of the 7 to the tip of the bust, continuing on to the middle of the 13th star and stopping there. The second crack goes from Charles Barber's initial "B" on the bottom of Liberty's bust continuing to the left, toward and above (but not touching) the 1st star. See plate.

There are no noticed reverse die diagnostics on this particular coin.

**19/1909-S/S, RPD - South, RPM - South (1 plate; 1/2 obverse & 1/2 reverse; plate coin is AU-50)**

Dave lists this variety as "Lawrence 103," but calls it a 1909-S with repunched 1.

No mention is made of the first south-punched 'S' as on my piece. I thought at first it might be strike doubling, but I'm pretty sure it's not because the edges are rounded instead of 'shelf-like' and there is no evidence on any of the other features,

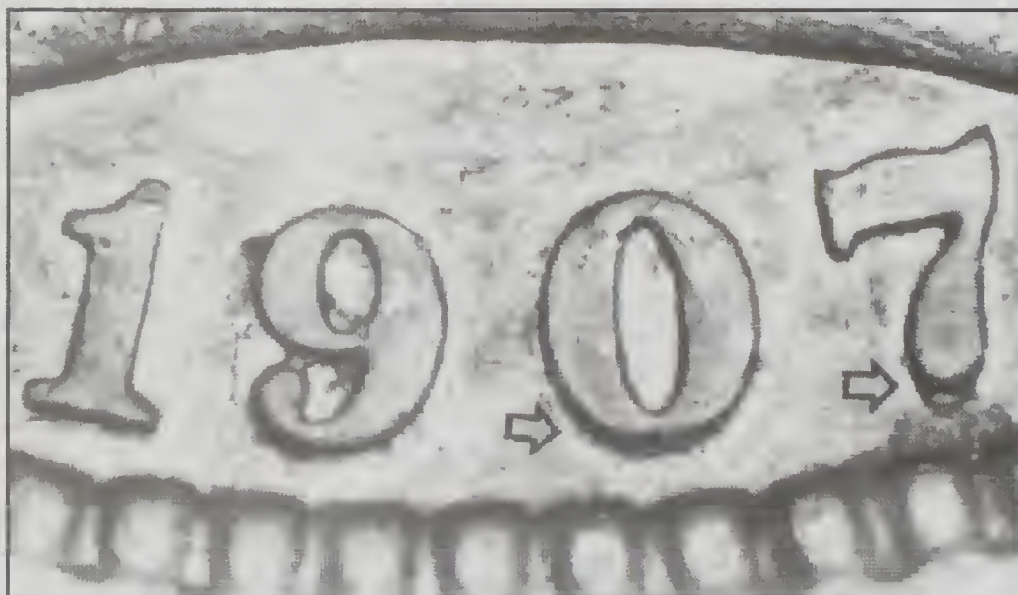
---

or lettering etc. of strike doubling - only the S/S as shown here.

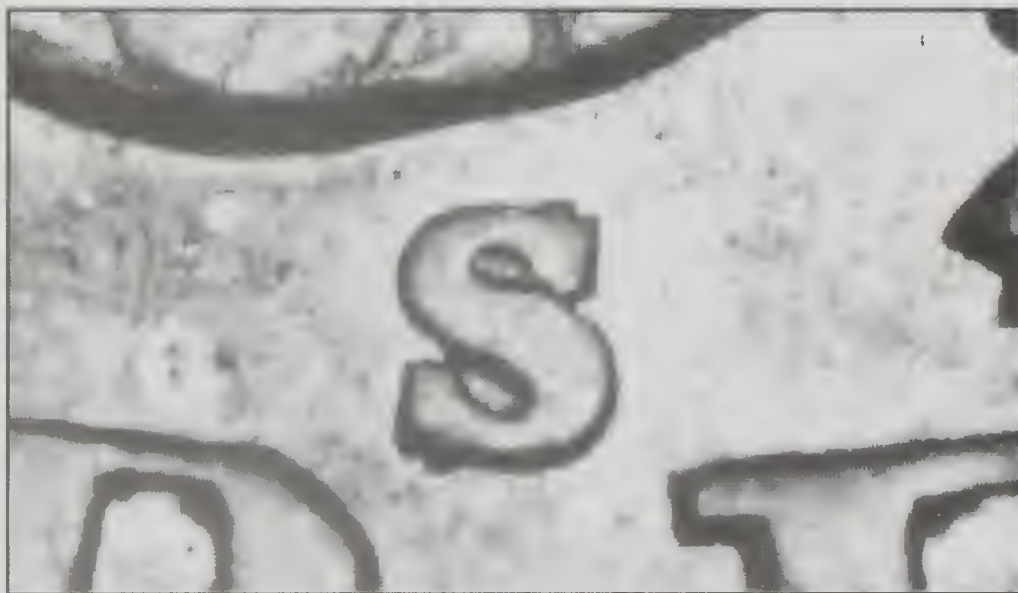
Another difference is that my piece shows repunching on not only the numeral 1, but also on the first 9! - again to the south (see plate). Dave doesn't have a photo of his piece in his book, so a definite match could not be made with any photo.

Unfortunately, no die damage, or diagnostic wear features are evident on the AU-50 coin plated here.

One more set of quarter plates from my collection to go, then I guess I'd better see what else I can come up with. Or maybe I'll see what headway I can make in keeping the deer from eating the daylilies... Naw! - the coin articles would be much easier!



*Lawrence 101:  
07/07 RPD*

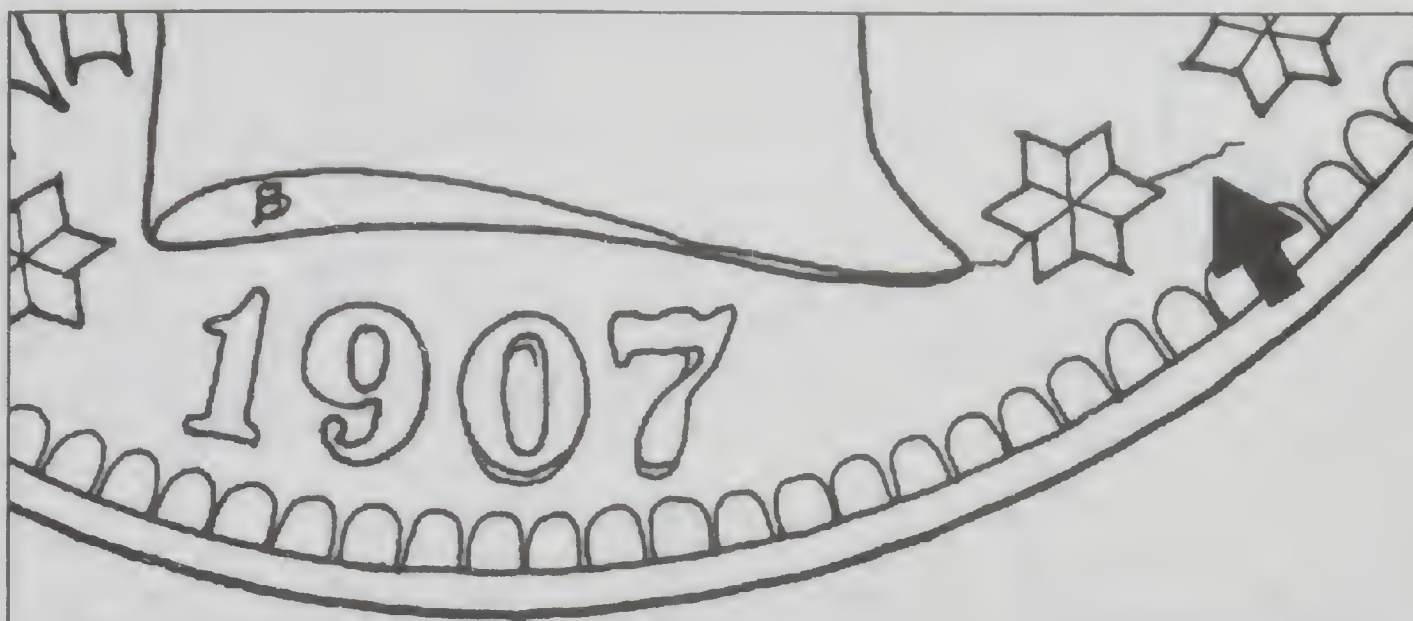


*Lawrence 104:  
1907-S/S RPM*

Many thanks to John Feigenbaum for permission to reprint these photos from Dave Lawrence's *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, 2nd Edition, page 85.



1907/07-S/S RPD - South, RPM - Overlap/tilt **QUARTER**



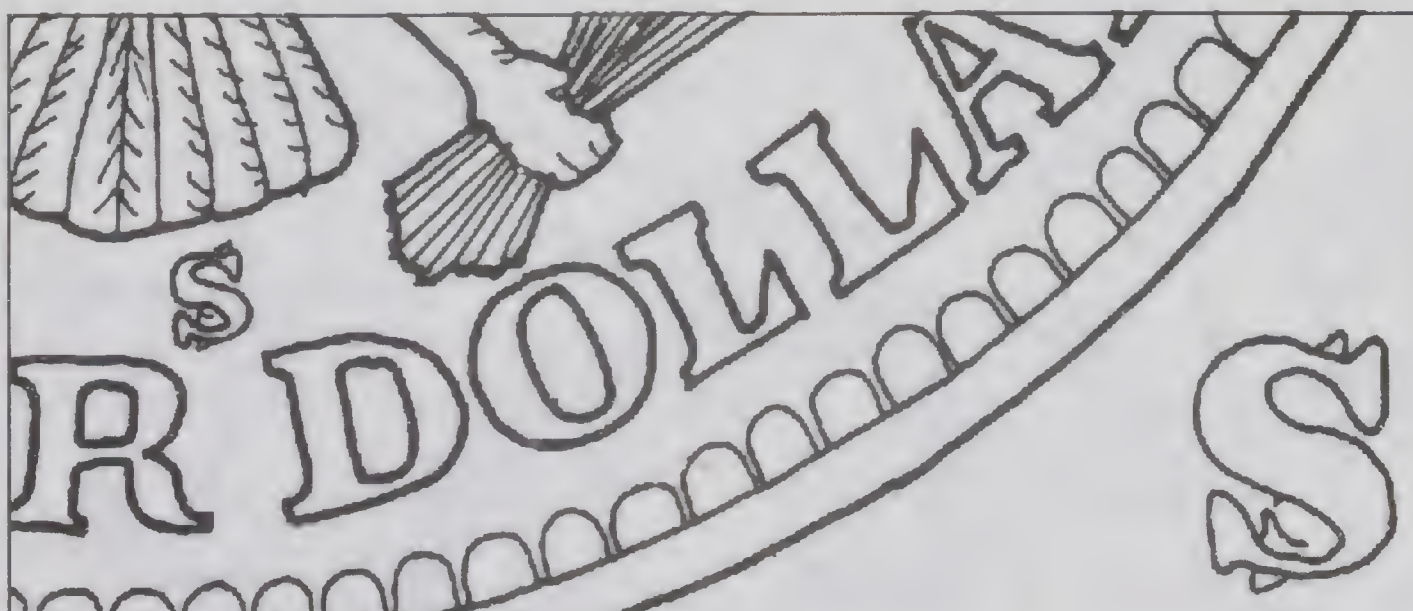
OBVERSE: The 0 and 7 were originally punched in to the south of the final date position. These can be easily seen within the upper loop of the 0 and beneath it as well. With the 7, it can be noted below the 7's crossbar and also below the lower serif (at the very bottom). (Lawrence 101 obverse)

REVERSE: The original 'S' mintmark was punched directly beneath, but a bit tilted counterclockwise from the final 'S.' Interestingly, it may actually be a 'large S/small S' variety, but there's not enough here to say with certainty. (Lawrence 104 reverse)

**DIE DEFECTS:**

Obv.: A light thin die crack runs from the tip of Liberty's bust to and through the last star.

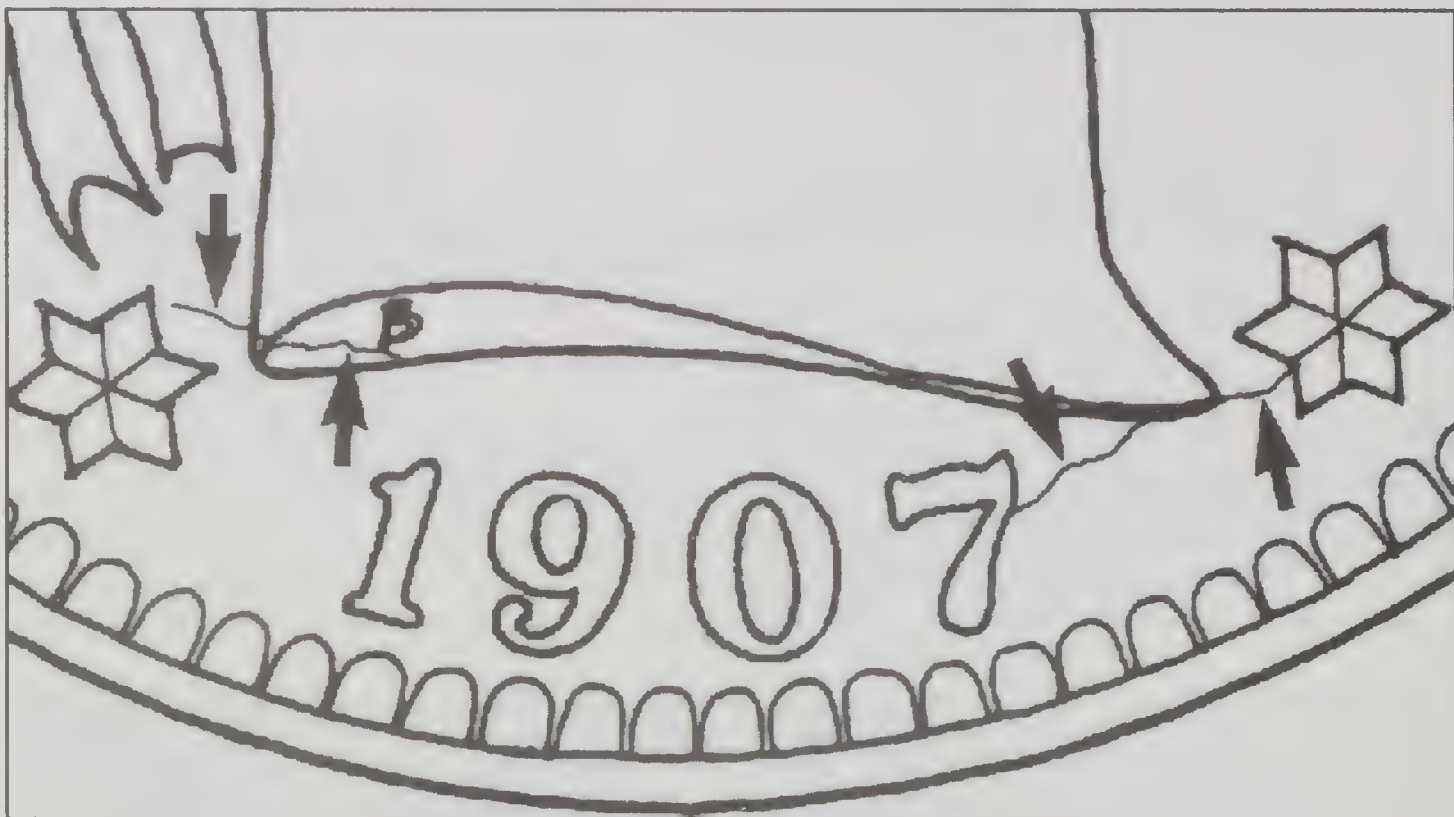
Rev.: None seen.



1907-S/S

RPM - East

QUARTER



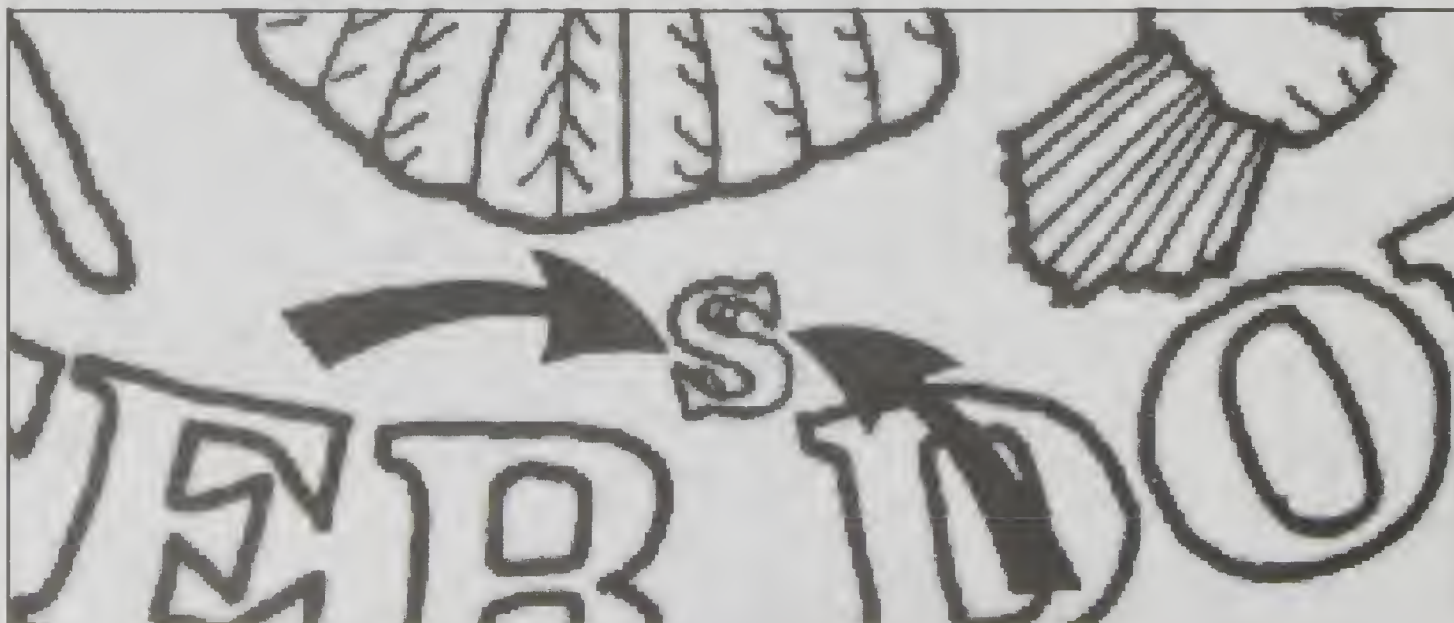
OBVERSE: Normal.

REVERSE: The mintmark was originally punched in to the east of the final 'S.' This shows clearly within the lower loop as an extra serif. The upper loop contains a double curved line (triple punched?), but is not as bold as the lower remnant.

DIE DEFECTS:

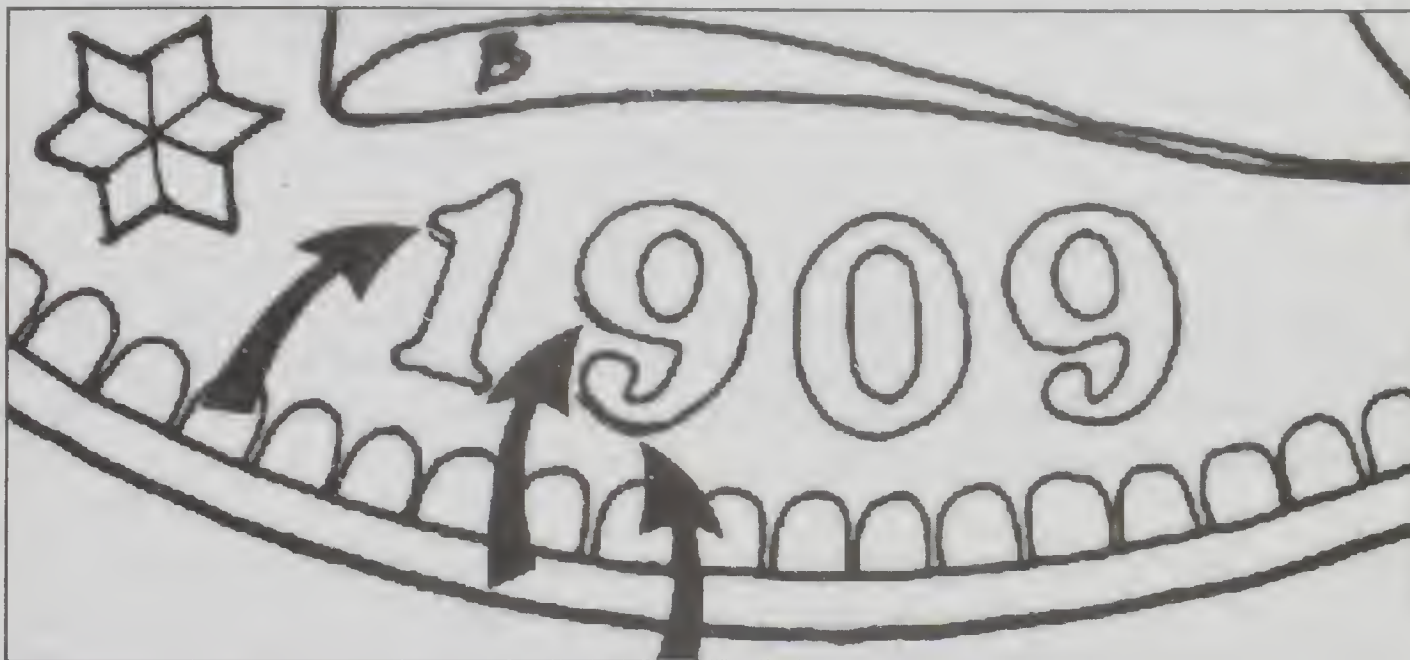
Obv.: Two hairline cracks exist: one from the twelfth star to the tip of the bust to the left of the 7; another from the back of the neck almost to the first star.

Rev.: None seen.





19/1909-S/S RPD - South, RPM - South QUARTER



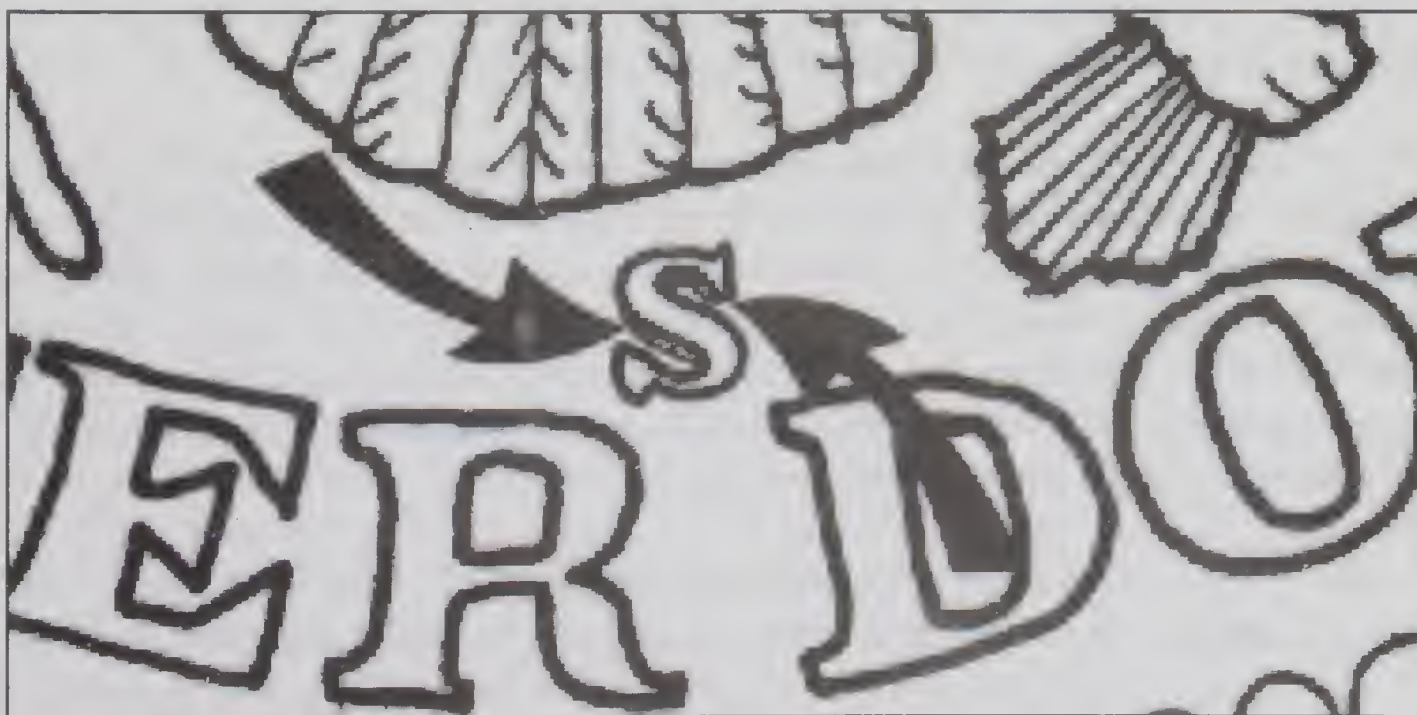
OBVERSE: The 1 and first 9 in the date were originally punched in south of the final date. Remnants are most bold on the 1. The 9's doubling will be visible only on EF or higher grade pieces - very faint.

REVERSE: The mintmark was also originally punched in south of the final S. The initial S shows as fine, but well-raised lines just below the final S's upper loop and middle.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen.

Rev.: None seen.



---

# Diary of a Barber Coin Dealer

Anonymous

*Editor's note: Some topics are timeless. Some articles are timely. Occasionally, as space allows, we will reprint articles from past Journals which we feel will be of interest to our newer members. This article, including the publisher's note, is reprinted from the BCCS Journal Vol. 1, No. 2, Summer 1989, pp. 26-8.*

**Publisher's Note:** It isn't often I will agree to publish an anonymous article, but in this case I've made an exception because of the nature of the topic and the reputation of the author. Although somewhat controversial, the article does present a perspective particularly important for those who collect and sell Barbers to understand, whether they may agree or not. Letters to the editor regarding this and any other articles in the Journal are welcome, and should be suitable for publication at the publisher's discretion.

---

I have been a coin dealer for a number of years, most of that time maintaining a sizeable share of my inventory in Barber coins. I have seen the best and worst of the coin market and, throughout it all, have remained impressed with the holding power of Barber coin values and the tenacity (almost fanaticism) of the Barber collector. But during my career, I have often times been at the receiving end of the typical frustration experienced by the seasoned collectors who came to realize long ago just how scarce these coins really are.

The other basic frustration I am often times exposed to by collectors results from the inconsistent grading standards applied by the various Barber dealers. I have found, as a result, a very consistent grading standard developed by collectors, which of course is often more strict than those enforced by most dealers. Hence, the frustration and disappointment between the buyer and seller. It is for that reason I am hopeful the Barber Coin Collectors' Society will be able to help reduce the rift that has evolved between Barber dealer and collector.

Also, now that there is an organization where a majority of Barber collectors can be reached at one time, I want to give both them and other dealers my point of view in an effort to have all of us obtain a better understanding of where each of



---

us are coming from. I further feel my message will have the most impact if I'm totally candid. I have chosen to remain anonymous because, frankly, I still have a livelihood to protect. So let's start with my first issue which presents conflict between Barber buyer and seller, and that's the impact of scarcity on price.

Although Barbers are not nearly as old as Bust Halves, they have never been as popular, and consequently, were heavily circulated. In addition, Bust Halves were a lot of money in their day, and not frequently used for exchange. Known as the "workhorses" of their time, Barbers were not only heavily circulated, but many were melted for silver value. Combining this with their relatively short life span and fact that the coin's designs were severely criticized, not too many were put aside. Add to that, too, that the most affordable denomination to collect, namely the dimes, were struck in very low relief, causing them to wear down to low grades very easily.

With all this, it's no wonder that dealers rarely, if ever, have any of the better dates in their inventory; and when they do, they throw away the Grey Sheet when establishing a sales price. The collector, on the other hand, offers the Grey Sheet and thinks he's being gouged when he and the dealer can't agree on a price.

Let's look at the dealer's point of view for a minute. A 1904-S dime in VF doesn't come along very often. The dealer who buys that coin for repurchase is normally sold it by someone who didn't use the Grey Sheet either. So, if the dealer pays a premium, he's got to pass on a premium to his customer. The Grey Sheet, too, as valuable a guide as it is, is just a guide. You can't expect it to be a totally accurate barometer for coins that are rarely traded.

When it comes to the scarce dates, I think the buyer should take the scarcity more into consideration when evaluating the purchase price. Ultimately, he does have a choice, and if he chooses to pass on the coin, there will be another buyer who does appreciate the rarity and doesn't have a problem with the price.

The last and most controversial issue creating barriers between Barber buyers and sellers is the question of grading. On this issue, I share the collectors' point of view, for the most part. There are generally accepted grading standards for Barbers which make them fairly easy to grade up to XF, which is the range most collectors are in anyway. Many is the time you'll hear a collector bemoan a dealer who tried to sell him a "fine" Barber with only four letters in "LIBERTY" visible, or an "extremely fine" with no band visible. Yes, my friends, there are those dealers who either justify their price by jacking up the grade, or maybe they just have their own grading standards like NCI vs. PCGS vs. ANACS vs. NGC, etc. Grading differences are tougher to justify with circulated coins, however, where grading is not as much on appearance as it is on what part of the design remains.

---

I welcome the Barber Society. I think it's going to increase the consistency of grading a lot like the Liberty Seated Collector's Club has done for the Seated series. I don't think dealers need to worry about grading standardization. There won't be any fewer coins to sell, but the same number with justifiable premiums for the nicer quality, more scarce coins. I think this grading consistency process will regulate itself because an organization of many Barber collectors can have a lot of influence on dealers who choose to ignore generally accepted standards of grading.

On a final note regarding grading, the one real variable is originality, the lack of which at times can cause a coin's grade to be reduced. Let's face it, years ago (and sometimes even today), it was in vogue to polish your coins. How about the dippers? Those little devils who made an art of "dipping out" dirt and other eyesores. There are, fortunately, homes for all degrees of originality in collections, but they too should be affected by price. The market does this, providing the buyer and seller both agree on the condition of the coin. Grading inconsistencies show up often on the issues of originality, as well. Consider all the times you've read an ad by some dealers who are so meticulous about the originality of a coin, then read ads from others who don't say anything about condition. I think the mail order dealer in the latter example will ultimately pay the price when his customers will eventually get fed up with his surprises in the mail, and go someplace else.

So that's my diary. I think dealers should be allowed to make a decent profit relative to the coin's scarcity, but I also think the dealer owes his customer accurate and honest grading in exchange. There's a lot of room for greater understanding by both dealers and collectors, and hopefully, the Barber Club will help bridge that gap so that the two parties can get on with their basic task: uniting collectors with the coins they want at a fair price for all!



# **“QUALITY BARBERS FROM JACK BEYMER”**



*Call or write us today for  
the coins you need.*

**Jack H. Beymer**

Phone: 707-544-1621

737 West Coddington Center

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Store Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM Mon-Sat



I HAVE THE COLLECTOR COINS YOU NEED.

SEND FOR MY LATEST PRICE LISTING.  
WANT LISTS GLADLY ACCEPTED.



## LARRY BRIGGS RARE COINS

P. O. Box 187  
Lima, OH 45802  
Hours: M-F 10-6 EST  
e-mail: lbrc@wcoil.com

888-228-LBRC  
419-228-2285 or  
419-228-3831  
Fax: 419-228-0137

Internet Address: <http://wcoil.com/-lbrc>

### WE BUY AND SELL BARBER HALVES • QUARTERS • DIMES

One of America's leading coin dealers offering a sizable assortment of hard-to-find Halves, Quarters, and Dimes to Barber collectors seeking quality materials. Send us your want list. We are always in the market to buy whatever coins you have to sell. Write or phone Dennis Steinmetz with your description.

#### Steinmetz Coins & Currency, Inc.

350 Centerville Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601

717-299-1211      800-334-3903

Member: NGC • PCGS • ANA • PNG

### BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES

1/8 page	1 issue.....\$12	4 issues.....\$40
1/4 page	1 issue.....\$20	4 issues.....\$70
1/2 page	1 issue.....\$30	4 issues.....\$100
1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250
1 page inside front or rear cover	1 issue..\$80	4 issues.....\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue...\$125	4 issues.....\$400